

April 28, 1999

Dear Peg,

Just wanted to drop you a note to thank you again for the dinner and your thoughtful gift (please tell Mark again for me too) which was very much appreciated!

I'm sort of sorry we didn't get a chance to talk more on Saturday before Jon & Eve came over. I know these are difficult decisions you're making for a million reasons. But as I started to tell you, I do think you are doing the right thing.

I saw what happened with Joe and even though he lived in a supposedly "senior citizen's" apartment building that *did* have some services, it wasn't quite enough.

I know you're worried about Mark and with good reason. I want you to know that I always admired and respected you for taking him in. Of course, it was the "right" thing to do, but as we both know, Mark is not exactly the easiest person to get along with, let alone live with. I hope you don't mind me being upfront about this, but let's face it, he is what he is, and he's been that way as long as I've known him, which is a pretty long time.

But at the same time, you have a life and you have to live it. And it's always been my experience that if you don't take care of yourself first (and I'm talking adult life now, not raising kids or something like that where kids have to come first) you really can't take care of others (relatives or not). Of course, I also know it's easier said than done.

I hope you don't mind me talking about this with you, and while I am still your nephew, I am also in my late forties. What I'm trying to say is if you need or want to talk about this (when I return) don't be afraid. Ok?

Till then, take care of yourself and thanks again.

Love,